

# What Do I Do With It Now?



## A Quick Guide to Recycling Resources



Take Care of Texas—It's the only one we've got.

# Household

## Appliances and Other Scrap Metal

Recycle scrap metal by contacting local scrap dealers or your waste hauler; check your local yellow pages under “Scrap Metals” or “Recycling Centers.” Some dealers may pay you for your materials. Some may require that refrigerant (commonly known as Freon) be removed.



## Paper, Cardboard, Bottles, Cans

Contact your local government, waste hauler, or landfill to find recycling centers, or check the yellow pages for “Recycling Centers” or “Waste Paper.”

## Brush, Leaves, and Lawn Clippings

Contact your local government, waste hauler, or landfill about mulching and composting options for yard trimmings. Practice mulching or start a compost pile at home: to learn how, call us at 512-239-0028 for a free copy of the *Mulching and Composting, A Take Care of Texas Guide* (GI-036), or download a copy from our website at <tceq.texas.gov/publications>. Your county extension agent (<agriflifeextension.tamu.edu>) may also be able to assist you.



## Clothing, Toys, Household Goods, Etc.

Practice “reuse” by donating gently used items. Check with local charities and organizations to find a donation center.

## Computers, Printers, Televisions, Cell Phones, Electronics

Computer manufacturers are required to offer free collection and recycling of computer equipment to Texas consumers. You can find your brand’s program through <TexasRecyclesComputers.org>. Your local government, retailers, waste hauler, or landfill may also offer programs for collection, reuse, and recycling of computer equipment and other electronics. Some charities may accept electronic equipment that can be repaired or salvaged. Many cell phone companies will accept old cell phones for reuse or recycling. You can also visit <cleanup.org> for a list of electronics recyclers. Check out <TexasRecyclesTVs.org> for information about recycling your television.



## Household Hazardous Waste (some paints, cleaners, pesticides, etc.)



Some communities accept household hazardous waste (HHW) periodically or regularly from their residents—contact your local government to find out. You can visit <tceq.texas.gov> and enter “HHW contacts” in the site search box for a list of HHW contacts.

## Pharmaceuticals

You can safely throw away most medicines in your household trash after making the drugs unappealing to others. For example, you can crush the medication and mix it with cat litter or spent



coffee grounds. Also, contact your local solid waste department to inquire about take-back programs or single-day collection events.

## Rechargeable Batteries

Rechargeable batteries commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote-control toys should not be thrown in the trash. A number of companies will accept your old rechargeable batteries as well as your old cell phones. Search the Internet for “battery recycling.” For more information on battery recycling, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s website at <epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/battery.htm>.



## Toner/Ink Cartridges

You can find where to recycle your inkjet and laser toner cartridges by searching your local ZIP code at <cleanup.org>. You can also buy remanufactured or refillable cartridges.



# Automotive

## Auto Batteries (lead acid)

Discarding or improperly disposing of a lead-acid battery is illegal in Texas. Texas law requires businesses that sell lead-acid batteries to accept your old one when you purchase a new battery. Ask your local auto parts store or auto service shop if they will accept extra batteries for recycling.



## Used Oil & Used Oil Filters

*(including transmission fluids, brake fluids, power steering fluids and greases)*

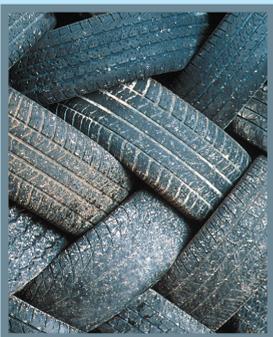


Texas law prohibits dumping used oil on land or into storm drains or waterways. It is also illegal to use as a dust suppressant. Some communities have collection centers for used oil and properly drained oil filters. Also,

some auto service centers (listed in the yellow pages under “Oil Change & Lube” or “Auto Repair & Service”) accept used oil in quantities of less than 5 gallons and sometimes used filters from the public. Businesses should check under “Oil-Used & Waste” for used oil collection services.

## Antifreeze

Some auto service centers (listed in the yellow pages under “Oil Change & Lube” or “Auto Repair & Service”) will accept used antifreeze for recycling. Businesses should check under “Oil-Used & Waste” for antifreeze collection services.



## Tires

When you purchase new tires, ask if the tire retailer will take your old tires. Some tire dealers or auto shops will accept tires for a fee. A few municipalities will accept a limited number of scrap tires from citizens at no charge.

# Agricultural



## Plastic Pesticide Containers (*Empty*)

For information on recycling empty plastic pesticide containers, visit [usagrecycling.com](http://usagrecycling.com).

# Other

## Other Options

1. Contact the solid waste, sanitation, or public works departments serving your area for recycling contacts. The TCEQ lists many of these at [tceq.texas.gov/goto/recycling\\_contacts](http://tceq.texas.gov/goto/recycling_contacts).
2. Check the yellow pages under recycling, scrap, waste, or an individual material or product.
3. Contact waste haulers or landfills about recycling options.

## Other TCEQ Publications

The Used Oil Recycling Handbook:  
Guidance for Used Oil Handlers (RG-325)

Save Money & the Environment at Home (GI-370)

Save Money & the Environment at the Office (GI-388)

To order or download TCEQ publications, visit [tceq.texas.gov/publications](http://tceq.texas.gov/publications) or call 512-239-0028.



Online tips to do your part!

### How is our customer service?

[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey)



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division

The TCEQ is an equal opportunity employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.